

# DESERET NEWS

## WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - Nov. 8, 1876.

### THE GRASSHOPPER CONVENTION.

In answer to the circular of invitation by Gov. Pillsbury, of Minnesota, to the Governors of States and Territories, a convention was held at Omaha, October 24 and 25, and the following were present—

"Gov. J. S. Pillsbury, of Minnesota; Gov. S. J. Kirkwood, of Iowa; Gov. C. H. Hardin, of Missouri; Gov. Pennington, of Dakota Territory; Gov. Silas Garber, of Nebraska; Prof. A. Whitman and Pennock Pusey, of Minnesota; Prof. C. V. Riley, of Missouri; Prof. Cyrus Thomas, of Illinois; ex-Gov. R. W. Furnas, Prof. A. D. Williams and Prof. Wilbur, of Nebraska."

Gov. Pillsbury was elected chairman, and Prof. Riley, of Missouri, and Mr. Pennock Pusey, of Minnesota, were chosen secretaries.

Prof. Riley read a letter from Governor Beveridge, authorizing Prof. Cyrus Thomas to appear in his behalf for the State of Illinois and Mr. Thomas was admitted to the deliberation. Prof. Riley was also admitted as representative of the State Board of Agriculture, of Missouri, and subsequently, on motion of Gov. Garber, all persons interested in the subject of the call were invited to participate.

Gov. Pillsbury read the following paper—

"The object of our conference as you are aware is to consider the grasshopper question in its various aspects and especially in that in which the insect presents himself as the inveterate enemy of our agricultural interests. This assemblage was suggested by the hope that through the collection of information and a thorough interchange of views among those who, of necessity, had given the subject attention some comprehensive plan might be devised and a concert of action secured, which might prove in some degree commensurate with the magnitude of the evil to be encountered.

"No subject surely transcends this question in urgent practical importance. From a casual appearance of the grasshoppers in isolated localities more than a century ago their visitations have grown of late years with such alarming frequency, and in such countless and destructive numbers, as to create the profoundest apprehension for the primary sources of our prosperity. Since the year 1818 some portions of our extensive frontier, from Texas to our northern boundary, as well as the Pacific slope, have been invaded by the insects and subjected to their rapacity. Considering the sudden and fitful movements of the locusts, the limitless field of their operations and the mysterious and predatory nature of their inroads, they constitute a formidable enemy with which no single State or community can expect to cope successfully; and it is my profound conviction that an evil which, by threatening our agriculture, threatens all forms of productive industry, deserves the prompt and thorough consideration of the General Government.

"If it be within the legitimate province of the Federal government to improve our river and harbors in order to facilitate the movement of crops, surely the rescue of these crops from destruction is no less an object of its rightful care. If it be right for the government to aid the promotion of its internal commerce it certainly cannot be wrong to attempt the preservation of those primary products without which there can be no commerce.

"In view of facts which seem to me indisputable and of the vast importance of the subject, I invoke your careful and earnest attention to such questions as may come before us looking to the furtherance of the object of our meeting. Various measures embodying the results of experience and observation, will, I trust, be presented and wisely considered.

"For myself I feel so deeply impressed with the magnitude of the evil which confronts us, and the urgent importance of comprehensive efforts for its arrest, that I trust I may be pardoned for indicating in advance some of the proposals which I think should claim our attention, as of the first importance. Among these I name—

"1st. A joint and urgent appeal to the President of the United States, to be signed by the executives here assembled and others favoring the movement, requesting him, in his forthcoming annual message or other suitable manner, to commend the subject to the prompt and favorable action of Congress.

"2d. A similar joint request from this body to the congressional delegations from the States here represented and others interested, urging their assiduous efforts for the passage of an act of Congress providing for the appointment of a commission of both scientific and practical men to consider the whole question, including cause and remedy, with adequate provision for suitable bounties for the prevention and cure of the evil.

"3d. A joint memorial, if practicable, or some other form of combined official action by our several legislatures asking the aid of Congress for these purposes, and to that end requesting the concerted and persistent influence of our several congressional delegations.

"4. Recommendations of the subject by the governors to the favorable consideration of the several State legislatures interested, invoking the adoption of such practicable measures as have proved efficacious and such as further experience may suggest, including the repeal of existing game laws or such modification of them as will prevent the destruction of birds which feed upon the insects; the offering of bounties for the destruction of eggs and insects; the prevention of prairie fires until a suitable time for the destruction of the young grasshoppers by firing the grass; the encouragement of tree culture for promoting moisture and harboring birds, and such other means as may promote the great end desired.

"I cordially wish for such favorable results from this consultation as may be confidently expected of all sincere efforts deserving success."

Considerable discussion was had upon the subject, a committee report was made and accepted, resolutions were adopted and a lengthy paper was read by Gov. Pillsbury.

The following is the conclusion of the report, as published in the Omaha Herald—

"Prof. Riley offered the following:

"Resolved, That in the event of the appointment of a national commission for the investigation of the locust problem, each of the States and Territories interested be urged to appoint a commissioner or commissioners to work in such States and Territories, and to co-operate with the national commission in accumulating facts and experiments."

"Petitions were read from the Synod of Minnesota, and from a conference of Indian ministers in Dakota to the convention to appoint a day of fasting and prayer, and Governor Pennington introduced a preamble and resolutions which were adopted:

"Whereas, The scourge of the grasshoppers or locusts has become so alarming during the last few years as to seriously threaten the prosperity of many of the States and Territories; and

"Whereas, They have appeared in many localities in such force as to utterly defy the ingenuity of man without the blessing of God, to avert the danger and protect the growing crops; and

"Whereas, While we have a never-failing faith in the goodness and wisdom of that all-seeing and ever merciful God, who controls the early and the later rains, and whose merciful providence gives us seed time and harvest;

"Be it therefore resolved, That we respectfully, but earnestly, urge that all our people in the States and Territories afflicted with the locusts, of all denominations and sects, offer up special prayers in their respective churches for deliverance from this great enemy."

### Local and Other Matters.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY, NOV. 2.

**Releases and Appointments.**—Elder Peter Barton, Reese R. Lewellyn, P. D. Lyman, L. Brown, W. M. Evans and H. W. Taylor are released to return to Utah with the 25th of October company.

Elder W. C. A. Smoot is appointed to succeed Elder Barton, Elder S. Leigh to succeed Elder Lewellyn, Elder T. Ball to succeed Elder Lyman, Elder W. W. Taylor, to succeed Elder Brown, and Elder J. Parry to succeed Elder Evans; these appointments to take effect when those now presiding take their departure, they having given their successors all needful instructions, and turned over to them all the books, business, etc., of their several Conferences in a good and understandable condition.

Elder J. W. Taylor is appointed to preside in the Norwich Conference, and Elder L. D. Young to be Traveling Elder in the Leeds Conference.—*Millennial Star*, Oct. 9.

**Another Judicial Summersault.**—One of those peculiarly inexplicable judicial summersaults which are beyond the comprehension of the ordinary and perhaps even the extraordinary mortal was performed yesterday, in connection with the arbitrary sequestration proceedings against President Young.

The latter's agent, Mr. James Jack, made an effort to replevin the property from the purchasers, but Judge Schaeffer forbade the deputy clerk of the Third District Court to issue and file the necessary papers for the U. S. Marshal to take possession of and hold the property, pending the determination of the several suits in replevin. We are hardly prepared to believe that the Judge would have gone so far as that, unless he had been laboring under a misunderstanding. At least we give him the benefit of that belief, for it would be little short of an exhibition of the most unwarrantable, extra-judicial and illegal despotism to keep a litigant out of court. This would be carrying the policy of denuding the aggrieved party of means and opportunity of redress to an extent that would constitute it most unqualified outrage, unsurpassed in the history of modern judicial affairs.

His honor relented from this absurd determination, and, this morning, directed the clerk to issue the papers, and probably ere this some if not all of the property is in the hands of the U. S. Marshal, unless some of the purchasers cover it by counter-bond, which some of them may not be likely to do, as the recovery is, of course, sought at the real and not at the purchase value, and some of the suits can therefore be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States if necessary, the amounts being over that which is required to have a suit adjudicated there.

**Use and Abuse of Law.**—We all know what laws are instituted among mankind for; without them chaos and anarchy would reign, every man's hand would be against his neighbors, no one could enjoy that which he had obtained by whatever means so long as a more powerful man desired it. Law enforces a wholesome restraint upon the strong and covetous, while it extends a helping hand to the timid and weak; the law does this, when it is permitted to pursue its proper course, but, as any engine for good can be made as powerful for bad as otherwise by turning it in the wrong direction, so is the perversion of the law the most pernicious evil which can or does afflict the human family. It is now an open question as to whether the law is administered for the purpose of dealing out even-handed justice or whether its functions and purposes are not all or nearly all swallowed up in the one object of yielding support to a class of men styled attorneys, those who observe the most closely generally deciding in favor of the latter proposition. It is a plain fact that causes brought before a bar of so called justice are not infrequently determined by the skill and readiness in legal technicalities of the lawyers, while the defrauded client, upon whose side rests every vestige of merit which the case possesses, is forced to content himself with the frigid consolation that "the law" has gone against him.

The time was when Utah sustained and promoted a system of arbitration, by which all kinds of

disputes and controversies between fellow citizens were amicably adjusted and full justice was rendered; by this method of procedure the merits of the cases were taken into consideration, and the formalities of law excluded. When the arbitrators made their award, the parties generally felt that substantial justice had been rendered, and, what was fully as gratifying, there was no long bill of costs, no attorney's fees, nor anything of the kind to settle; so that, win or lose, neither party was, by that method, brought to sustain heavy losses. That system was almost universally satisfactory, because it was a sort of solid homespun, honest, inexpensive method of adjusting difficulties; while the few who preferred the more stylish and costly plan of going into court, were not prevented from exercising that privilege. But homely comfort and quiet seem to pall upon the average mortal in Utah as elsewhere, that which is comfortable and cheap becoming undesirable in proportion as our neighbors accumulate something more elegant; arbitration was good enough when everybody submitted to it; but if A could afford to go to law, B was just as able as he, so two or three lawyers found a growing business where formerly but one picked up a scanty subsistence. Now they are here in swarms, and a recourse to law upon the occurrence of every trifling grievance appears to be the consequence.

The law is or should be one of our greatest earthly safeguards, and a good lawyer is, of necessity, a useful citizen. But how often is it the case that the development of facts and the application of law are secondary considerations; while the desire to establish a reputation for turning every captured scoundrel loose upon the community, or for fastening an opponent in a corner and "bleeding" him to death, in connection with a handsome fee, are paramount and absolute? Very often indeed.

It is but one class of instances of many of the utter venality of many members of the modern bar, to force a respondent into court, obtain various decrees from the bench in their favor, some for money, others for imprisonment, but always keeping the cause alive and never bringing it to an issue that it may be ascertained once for all whether or not the payments exacted *pendente lite* are groundless extortions *couleur sub judice*. And when, through judicial blundering and floundering of a most unheard-of description, it is finally decided upon to make the defendant pay over the money which the law awards, his property is seized by a person who, if not normally totally irresponsible, is made so by the Court, and is sold for one-fifth its value, who shall not say that the ermine is dragged in the mire at the instigation of men who, while pretending to secure justice for all, applaud the outrage to the echo?

It seems reasonable that all final processes should follow the determination of causes, and that extraordinary remedies be applied only when the usual final process proves unavailing. But the law is made to assert to the contrary, and the redress of the party whose legal rights may have been ruthlessly trampled upon must be apart from the tribunal before which he was required to appear. In doing so his costs are greatly increased, his case becomes more complicated, and the issue is indefinitely postponed. If all this inexplicable series of persecutions be not a gross perversion of law, for the pocketing of lucre, we are lost for a satisfactory definition.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, NOV. 3.

**Tabernacle Meetings.**—Religious services are to be continued on Sunday afternoons in the New Tabernacle, until further notice.

**Returned Home.**—Messrs. C. R. Savage and Alfred Lambourne, who have been on a trip along the Union Pacific Railroad, to Omaha, returned last evening.

**For the Temple.**—Recently a very pleasant musical entertainment was given in the 15th Ward Assembly Rooms, under the auspices of the Young Men's Improvement Association of the Ward. The net receipts, \$30, were generously handed over to the Temple fund, to aid in building the House of the Lord.

**A Dishonest Practice.**—The owners of land in Sugar House Ward

and in fact all around and adjacent to the city are greatly annoyed and exasperated at the practice of numbers of unscrupulous owners of horses and cattle turning their animals loose, permitting them to go into the fields, tread down Fall wheat, devour and destroy their fodder and do other serious damage.

Some people are so constituted in matters of conscience that they can see no relation between the act of picking a man's pocket of his money and feeding their animals on his hay, etc., but if there be any difference in reality it is very fine, both acts being intrinsically dishonest. The practice should be stopped. It creates a large amount of bad feelings.

**Returned Missionary.**—This morning we received a visit from Elder David Evans, Jr., son of Bishop Evans, of Lehi, who returned last evening from a mission to the eastern States. He left this city on the 8th of November, 1875, and in connection with Elder Eli H. Pierce, labored nearly the whole of the time in Lucerne, Bradford and Tioga Counties, Pennsylvania, where they succeeded in baptizing fifty-six persons, about twelve of whom had been connected with the Church previously, while the balance were new members. They organized three branches, one at Plains, another at Plymouth, and the third at Monroeton, and ordained and set apart Elders to preside over them.

Elders Evans and Pierce were greatly blessed in their labors, not only being successful in baptizing a goodly number into the fold, but the Lord acknowledged their administrations by signs following, the sick being in numerous instances healed. Elder Evans, who is quite a young man, desires us to say for him, for the special benefit of his numerous young friends and acquaintances, that his late experience has proved to him, beyond the possibility of a doubt, that the great latter-day work is of God, and that the blessings promised through the gospel can be obtained by those who seek and live for them. He further states that there is a good field for missionary work in Pennsylvania for good, indefatigable Elders.

On the journey home, on the U. P. train, between Omaha and Ogden, the passengers discovering that Elder Evans was a "Mormon Elder," he was solicited to preach, and responded on two occasions, receiving good attention, one of his auditors subsequently expressing his conviction, after hearing him, that he had spoken the truth. These two discourses to a "traveling congregation," constituted the closing operations of his mission to the east. He returns in good health and spirits, and with a grateful feeling and remembrance for the many kindnesses he received while absent from home.

**The Land Office.**—Business is said to be rapidly increasing at the United States land office in this city, and nobody to attend to it, and on top of that it is reported that the new appointee for Register, Hon. Barbour Lewis, will not decide as to his acceptance or refusal of the office until after the approaching election.

**Obsequies of Hon. Charles E. De Long.**—The obsequies of Hon. Charles E. De Long, formerly United States minister to Japan, occurred at Virginia, Nevada, October 28th, and at Marysville, Cal., the next day, he being buried at the latter place. The obsequies at Virginia were the most imposing ever known in the State, and were conducted under the auspices of the Knights Templars, assisted by the Pioneers, the Odd Fellows, and the legal fraternity. Mrs. De Long, nearly crazed, clung to the casket and refused to leave it. The scene is thus described in the *Sacramento Record-Union*—

"After the throng of citizens had passed out the widow of the deceased, supported by two members of the bar, staggered up to the coffin, and with her eldest daughter fell prostrate upon its head. She stooped down to kiss the face of the dead, and found that the glass covering intervened. Then she cried out: 'You have deceived me, all of you; you promised to leave it open! It is cruel to do such a thing! You promised to leave it open!' and then with hands clutching the fastenings, she seemed about to wrench off the lid. Her eldest daughter, who had been consoling